THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Govt. of Punjab and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Basmati rice

1186. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Basmati rice grown in Punjab is knowns for its rich aroma and has high export potential; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to encourage its cultivation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) High yielding varieties and package of practices for maximising yield are being developed at Kapurthala, Pantnagar and Indian Agriculture Research Institutes New Delhi so that cultivation of Basmati Rice becomes economically more viable.

Procurement of Oilseeds

1187. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1985-86, Government had announced a long term policy for the procurement of oilseeds;

(b) if so, whether any purchases have been made under this scheme in Punjab so far; and

(c) if so, the quantity and the value thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government designated National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) as the Nodal Agency for undertaking price support operations in respect of oilseeds for a period of 5 years beginning from 1985-86.

(b) and (c) NAFED as the Central Nodal Agency for undertaking purchases at the support prices announced by the Government of India, purchased 96 MTs of Mustard seed and 2.3 MTs of Sunflower seed during 1985-86 and 1986-87 respectively in Punjab. However, the prices of oilseeds of the prescribes grade specifications in other years remained above the announced price level and therefore, no support purchases were made.

Proposal for augmenting water supply Scheme in Shimla

1188. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for augmenting the Shimla Water Supply Scheme has been submitted to the Central Government by the Himachal Government; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government on the proposed scheme and the expected time for the commencement of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Himachal Pradesh has been advised to prepare a detailed feasibility report for technical clearance by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation in this Ministry. The State Government has also been asked to indicate the annual phasing of the project and

confirmation regarding availability of plan provisions for the scheme to enable the Government of India to pose it for external assistance funding.

1189. [*Transferred to the 12th May, 1987*].

Development of Pesticides of Plant Origin

1190. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether effective insecticides of plant origin are available for control of pests in Public Health and agriculture and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any serious R&D work has been conducted to develop plant pesticides such as Neem and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a high powered committee for development of indigenous plant pesticides for biological control and integrated pest management to replace dangerous toxic chemical pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) Two insecticides of plant origin, namely Nicotine sulphate and Pyrethrum are available for control of pests in agriculture. For another insecticide called 'Indira' provisional registration has been granted under the Insecticides Act, 1968, for generation of required scientific data before it could be used on commercial scale after securing regular registration under the said Act.

According to available information, some tests have been conducted on plant origin pesticides, including neem, by the Government Institutions and Universities. Under the laboratory tests and also under limited field trials, some of the insecticides of plant origin like neem, Indiara' have been found to be effective against some insect pests including mosquito larvae.

The Integrated Pest Management is the main plank of plant protection strategy. Therefore, the Government is already making all possible efforts to popularise the Integrated Pest Management for the benefit of farming community to enable them to undertake only need based and judicious application of pesticides. As a major component of Integrated Pest Management, concerted efforts are being made by the Government to popularise the methods of biological control of insects-pests of agricultural importance. The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 has not approved 18 pesticides on account of toxicological reasons, phased out of use two and not permitted the import of another two pesticides. Moreover, this Committee registers only those pesticides which are safe and bio-effective for use in the country.

Glorified advertisements of pesticides

1191. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pesticides are being glorified through advertisements aimed at luring farmers as reported in Business Update of 12—25 March, 1988 issue; and

(b) whether Government propose to ban such advertisements at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.